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LOCAL-MOTION

Vancouver Film School will be opening its doors to the largest motion capture studio in Canada

metroNEWS

Graham Qually, president of Mimic Performance Capture, right, and Jon Bell, managing director at Vancouver Film School. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

'There is still hope'

B.C. SUPREME COURT DECISION

City injunction to remove tent city denied

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

"I'm actually happy for once in my life to go home."

That was the reaction of one resident at the tent city at 950 Main St. late Wednesday afternoon after a B.C. Supreme Court judge rejected the City of Vancouver's application for an injunction to have the homeless encampment dismantled.

"It's been an emotional day, an emotional day," resident Keya Archambolt told Metro. "It's such a big relief just knowing that there is still hope. I have a place to call home, where there is a sense of community and safety. I can actually sleep at night."

The decision marks a major victory for residents for the tent city, set up in April to draw attention to rising homeless numbers.

"We did not expect that. It's actually a pretty historic and precedent-setting decision," said activist Maria Wallstam. "Part of our argument was that the people on the site actually have nowhere to go. There are no shelter beds for them, they're not safe, especially for people who are trans or queer, and a lot of the tent city residents are. Staying on the streets is not safe and people's lives are actually at stake."

Wallstam said the city failed to prove to the judge that being at the site was causing "irreparable harm" and there were also questions about the evidence presented at the injunction hearings.

She expects the city to file another application for an injunction soon, which is slated for a future social housing development.

In its application, the city argued the tent city is preventing soil testing and drilling work that needs to be done.

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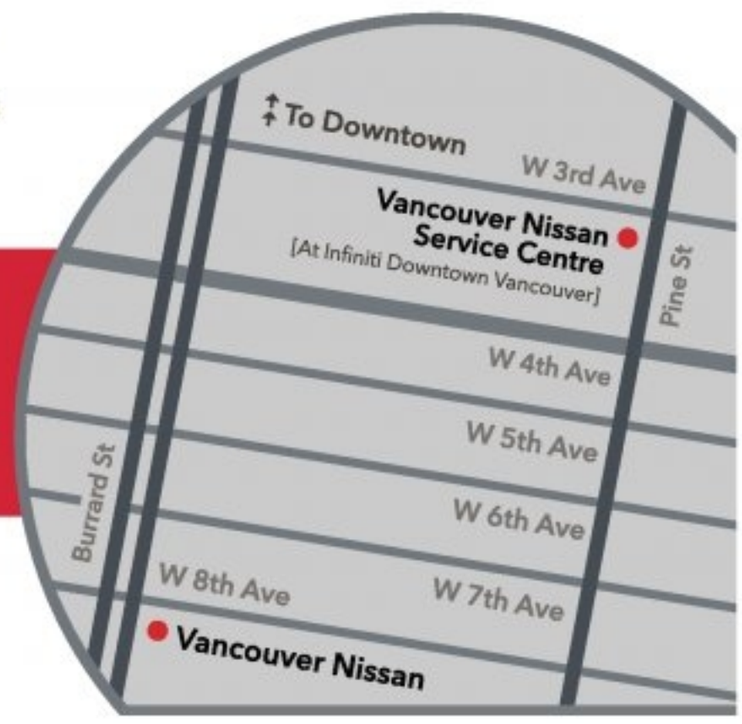

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metro NEWS
Your essential daily news

Winnipeg police arrest, charge men with killing Tina Fontaine's cousin. **Canada**

Hospital bike lanes approved

INFRASTRUCTURE

City planners say redesign will make 10th Avenue safer

Jen St. Denis
Metro | Vancouver

Vancouver city council Wednesday approved a $3-million street redesign, including the addition of a separated bike lane, along 10th Avenue between Oak and Cambie.

The proposal was initially panned by people with disabilities and patients of the health services-heavy area, and was criticized for seeming to put cyclists and trees before patients.

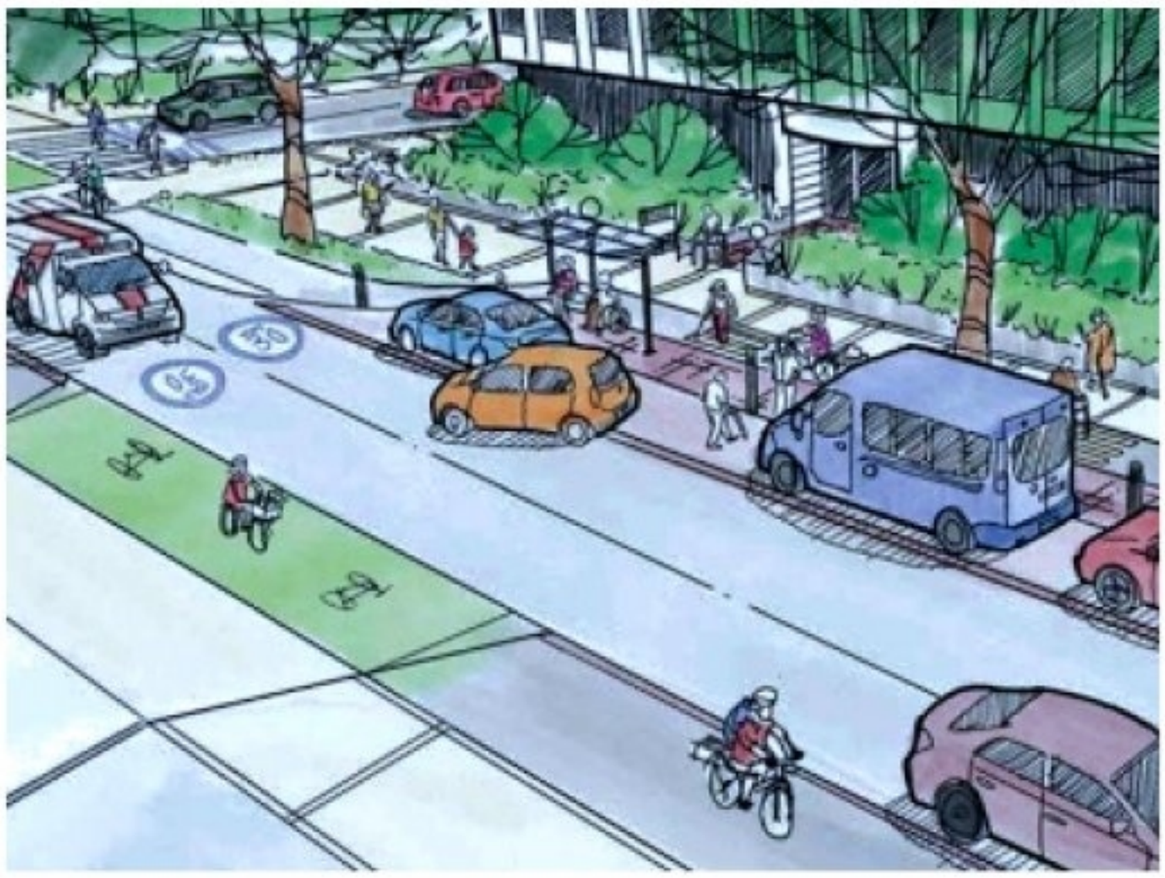
But after an intense consultation process of several months it gained the support of the city's persons with disabilities committee, Vancouver Coastal Health and the BC Cancer Agency.

For other patients and advocates, the proposed separated bike lane on 10th between Oak and Cambie is still a no-go because it will require the removal of 75 street parking spots or require patients to cross the bike lane.

The city is proposing to build a new 116-spot surface parking lot and improve passenger drop-off spots, but patients say that won't help people with disabilities who drive themselves, but can't walk long distances.

"I'm here to draw the exclamation mark to what parking means to the population I represent," said Jocelyn Maffin, who uses a wheelchair and both works and has been a patient in the 10th Avenue health hub.

"For people with power or manual chairs, they don't have a lot of options in that area. A lot of those parking spots surveyed (in the areas) were down a very steep hill, so think about how many of those spots you're probably counting in your head as available, are not available to



Artist illustration of the pick-up and drop-off location on 10th Avenue in front of the Arthritis Centre. CITY OF VANCOUVER

> **I'm here to draw the exclamation mark to what parking means.**
> Jocelyn Maffin

people with spinal cord injuries." NPA councillors George Affleck and Melissa De Genova opposed the plan, while all Vision councillors, as well as Green Coun. Adriane Carr and NPA Coun. Elizabeth Ball voted to approve it.

City staff had proposed to redesign 10th Avenue, a narrow residential street that carries a heavy stream of traffic, ambulances and delivery vans as well as vulnerable pedestrians and cyclists.

Over the past seven years, there have been 69 incidents of cars hitting pedestrians or cyclists along the corridor, where Vancouver General Hospital and centres devoted to arthritis, spinal cord injuries, cancer and eye treatment are located.

Planners estimated the street redesign, which includes traffic calming, better signage and raising crosswalks to sidewalk level, could reduce collision by 70 to 90 per cent.

Kelly Talayco spoke to council about her ordeal assisting her elderly husband, who suffered from arthritis, in and out of facilities along 10th Avenue.

The plan proposes to put a separated bike lane between street parking and the sidewalk, and Talayco said the idea of helping him to cross a separated bike lane "sends chills down my spine."

Tenth Avenue has been a popular commuter bike route for many years, and a city survey found that 60 per cent of cyclists on 10th were ending their trip somewhere within the health corridor.

Staff has made changes based on consultations after the proposal first came before council last fall: improving alternate bike routes along 14th Avenue and 7th Avenue to give cyclists an alternative to 10th; increasing the number of on-street parking for people with disabilities and adding more passenger drop-off zones; and nixing a proposed car-free zone on Heather Street.

Jacques Courteau, a member of the city's persons with disabilities advisory committee, said those changes and the consultation process made the difference in his committee's decision to support the plan.

DRUGS

Memorial for victims of overdose

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

Hundreds of people are expected to attend an interfaith memorial Thursday evening to honour people who have lost their lives during the overdose crisis.

The memorial, held at the Christ Church Cathedral at 690 Burrard St., is being organized by the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society, Jewish Addiction Community Services, Union Gospel Mission, Christ Church Cathedral, Providence Health Care, the Archdiocese of Vancouver, Tenth Church and St. Andrew's-Wesley United Church.

It will also feature leaders from Vancouver's Buddhist and Sikh communities, who will speak at the public memorial.

"People are dying and their friends and family don't have a decent place to grieve and mourn," said Dean Peter Elliott of Christ Church Cathedral in a statement. "We want to change that. We want to bring this crisis further out of the shadows into the clear light of day."

British Columbia is currently in the midst of a provincial health emergency. The fentanyl-fueled overdose crisis killed 931 people last year and 347 as of March 31 this year.

The memorial service, which runs from 5:30 to 7 p.m., is open to the public.

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‘System of legalized bribery’

POLITICS

Donors injected $1.5M into Clark’s final election push

David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

As final-week opinion polls suggested the B.C. Liberals were trailing behind the NDP ahead of last week’s razor-thin election, party financiers pumped more than $1.5 million into the party’s final week push to close the gap.

And that’s just what they did, eking out preliminary results of Premier Christy Clark’s party just one seat ahead of the NDP, neither with a majority — although two recounts and nearly 180,000 absentee ballots remain to be counted next week.

In total, according to B.C. Liberal “real-time disclosures” posted on the party’s website last Friday, donors forked over $1,543,303.52 in the last seven days before polls closed.

That’s 12 per cent of the party’s entire take in 2016, $13 million. And in just one week, they amassed one-quarter of the proceeds of every B.C. NDP fundraiser last year, and more than double the entire Green Party’s donations.

The largest last-minute cheques came from forestry giant Interfor, and Anthem Properties, which calls itself “Vancouver’s top real estate development firm.” Each gave $50,000 on the same day, May 6.

And one day’s donations alone, May 5, accounted for $545,717.52 — more than one-third of the seven-day homestretch total.

The party’s unaudited donations lists were saved as PDF files, making them difficult to combine or analyze. Metro converted them to spreadsheets to look for trends in the last days of a bitter election campaign.

Similar figures are not available the NDP and Greens, the two parties demanding a ban on “big money” in politics in B.C., which allows unlimited donations from anywhere, but does impose spending limits during election campaigns.

Those two parties will not have to disclose their donations until 90 days after the election, in August.

That’s also the deadline for individual candidates and riding associations to disclose their donations, which raised concerns during the campaign from Democracy Watch co-founder Duff Conacher, who called the differential reporting rules a “huge loophole” in transparency laws.

Conacher has also called B.C.’s lax donations rules a “system of legalized bribery.”

The B.C. Liberals promised that if they win government, once all the votes are counted, they will create a panel to examine the issue of political contributions, and require parties to report their revenues in real-time.

Green Party leader Andrew Weaver, meanwhile, has stated that banning corporate and union donations is a non-negotiable issue for his three-seat caucus, which could be a condition for supporting either a B.C. Liberal or NDP minority government after the May 24 final tally.

Premier Christy Clark is flanked by Liberal MLAs while taking questions from media on May 16.
DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

$1,543,303

Donations made to Premier Christy Clark’s B.C. Liberal Party from May 2-9.
SOURCE: B.C. LIBERALS UNAUDITED DISCLOSURES

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Studio turns actors into fantastic beasts

TECHNOLOGY

Motion capture facility opens up downtown

Jen St. Denis
Metro | Vancouver

Film industry insiders hope a new motion and performance capture studio opening in downtown Vancouver will give the city an edge when it comes to attracting film business.

"We knew as soon as we opened … we were going to have people knocking on our door," said Graham Qually, the founder of Mimic, which was created Jan. 4 and partnered with Vancouver Film Studio to build the new studio in just two months.

The studio captures both motion and performance, a technology that is increasingly being used in movies set in fantastical worlds or other planets (think The Hobbit or Guardians of the Galaxy). The studio is already booked into 2018, Qually said.

There are currently just two other motion-capture studios around Vancouver: a studio in Burnaby and another owned by game maker Electronic Arts.

Qually, who previously worked in Vancouver for Rainmaker Entertainment and then helped build a new motion-capture studio for Ubisoft in Toronto, said it wasn't hard to find clients.

"Performance capture has gone from $8 billion to $28 billion in five years," Qually said. "It's exploding right now."

The studio has been built in the basement of a Gastown building Vancouver Film School leases from the City of Vancouver, and students at VFS will get to use the tech for their own projects.

"This gives us a competitive advantage," said Jon Bell, managing director at Vancouver Film School. "We see something like this as a differentiator, that other schools don't have."

Sean Parry, left, and Graham Qually. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

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Recognizing Indigenous writers

Lenard Monkman said the award would encourage more young Indigenous writers to come forward. CONTRIBUTED

EQUALITY

'Most positive outcome' from appropriation controversy

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

When he co-founded the Red Rising Magazine, community organizer and Indigenous journalist Lenard Monkman wanted to offer a platform for an accurate reflection of the First Nations communities.

"For far too long our voices have been misappropriated, and our stories have been told from a deficit point of view," he said. "We have a beautiful culture and beautiful ceremonies but all you hear is negative stuff in the media."

An effort currently underway in Toronto to create a literary award recognizing Indigenous voices sounded like music to his ears. Lawyer Robin Parker launched an online fundraising campaign this week with the goal of supporting upcoming Indigenous writers. It was partly a response to the ongoing debate over cultural appropriation — which was sparked by an editorial in Write magazine that advocated for the creation of the "appropriation prize."

In just over two days, Parker's campaign has raised over $30,000, beyond her initial goal of $10,000. She says she's reaching out to Indigenous organizations across the country so they can be the ones who manage the award.

"That would be extremely important in encouraging young Indigenous writers to continue to tell our own stories," said Monkman, who will moderate a panel discussion on Indigenous Voices Rising next month at the Toronto Reference Library.

Journalists for Human Rights executive director Rachel Pulfer called the award initiative the "most positive outcome" from the appropriation controversy.

The group works with Indigenous youth across Canada to support emerging journalists, and such an award is one of their priorities for the next three years.

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RUSSIAN INVESTIGATION

Special counsel appointed

Besieged from all sides, the Trump administration appointed former FBI director Robert Mueller as a special counsel to oversee the federal investigation into allegations Russia and Donald Trump's campaign collaborated to influence the 2016 presidential election.

The appointment came as Democrats insisted ever more loudly that someone outside Trump's Justice Department must handle the politically charged investigation.

An increasing number of Republicans, too, have joined in calling for Congress to dig deeper, especially after Trump fired FBI director James Comey who had been leading the bureau's probe.

Earlier Wednesday, Trump complained in a commencement address that "no politician in history" has been treated worse by his foes, even as exasperated fellow Republicans slowly joined the clamour for a significant investigation into whether he tried to quash the FBI's probe.

Three congressional committees, all led by Republicans, confirmed they wanted to hear from Comey, whose notes about a February meeting with the president indicate that Trump urged him to drop the bureau's investigation of fired national security adviser Michael Flynn.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MARKETS

The growing political drama in Washington rattled Wall Street Wednesday, knocking the Dow Jones industrial average down more than 370 points and giving the stock market its biggest single-day slump in eight months.

WINNIPEG

Charges laid in woman's killing

Police have charged three men in the killing of a cousin of Tina Fontaine, a teenager whose death fuelled calls for a national inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women.

Police in Winnipeg say Jeanenne Chantel Fontaine, 29, was shot in March before the home she was in was set on fire.

She was later taken off life-support.

Const. Jay Murray said police believe the suspects went to the home looking for a man over a methamphetamine deal. Fontaine was in the wrong place at the wrong time.

"She was not the intended victim in this matter," Murray said.

Malcolm Miles Mitchell is charged with second-degree murder and arson. Jason Michael Meilleur is charged with manslaughter and Christopher Mathew Brass faces counts of manslaughter and arson.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jeanenne Chantel Fontaine
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CHANTAL HÉBERT ON JAGMEET SINGH, CULTURE AND QUEBEC

He doesn't need the province to take the party leadership. But the niqab episode of the 2015 election could cause worries that a leader whose religious identity is a distinguishing feature is a recipe for disaster.

A betting person might wager that Jagmeet Singh — unless he stumbles badly and quickly out of the gate — could soon be the candidate to beat in the battle for Thomas Mulcair's succession. With solid roots in the Ontario NDP — whose deputy leader he was until this week — and in multicultural Canada, Singh has the elements of a potential leadership juggernaut at his disposal.

The Sikh community is one of the most politically engaged in the country and Ontario offers the largest provincial pool of potential NDP supporters.

Singh has no federal experience but that did not prevent Alexa McDonough who had spent all her years in the Nova Scotia arena before moving on to Parliament Hill and Jack Layton who cut his teeth at Toronto City Hall from winning the leadership.

On a week when France has sworn in a 39-year-old president, it is hard to make a case that Singh, 38, is too young for the job of third party leader in the House of Commons.

NEW VALUES NDP hopeful Jagmeet Singh doesn't need overwhelming support from Quebec to win the leadership race, and it helps that he speaks excellent French, Chantal Hébert writes. BLAIR GABLE/FOR TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

He does not have much of a profile outside of Ontario and NDP circles. But then none of the four MPs who are already in the running is a national household name either. On that score, suffice it to say that there may have been more words written about Singh's leadership prospects before and since his entry in the NDP race than the sum of the characters expanded on all the other candidates.

As opposed to the Liberals and the Conservatives, the New Democrats do not weight their leadership votes on a riding-per-riding basis. Under the party's winner-take-all one-member-one-vote formula, it is easier to secure the leadership with little or no support from some regions, especially if one enjoys a lot of backing in Ontario and British Columbia. Those two provinces have tended to tower above the others on the NDP membership rolls.

This is a roundabout way to say that Singh would not need to win Quebec or even to do particularly well in that province to score a decisive leadership victory next fall. In the last election, the party was routed in Ontario and wiped off the map of Atlantic Canada. In the circumstances, more than a few New Democrats might rank recouping the lost ground in those regions above other considerations.

With two leaders from Quebec — Justin Trudeau and the Bloc Québécois' Martine Ouellet — and possibly a third if Maxime Bernier wins the upcoming Conservative vote, competition among native sons and daughters will be fierce in 2019. Whoever succeeds Mulcair will not have as large a footprint in Quebec. The party will have an uphill battle on its hands in the province under any leadership scenario.

Still, it took half-a-century for the NDP to establish a presence in Quebec. No one wants to see Jack Layton's parting gift to his party squandered.

On a week when France has sworn in a 39-year-old president, it is hard to make a case that Singh is too young.

All of which has many New Democrats — starting with the party's 16 Quebec MPs — quietly wondering how Quebec, given its strong pro-secular bent, would take to a turban-wearing Sikh NDP leader. It was not so long ago that the Parti Québécois was campaigning on a promise to impose a secular dress code on all public servants.

Based on the niqab episode of the 2015 election, there are those who would readily answer that going into the 2019 campaign in Quebec under a leader whose religious identity is a distinguishing feature could be a recipe for disaster.

But that may amount to selling Quebecers short. Yes, the NDP took a hit in Quebec over the niqab issue but it was the scores of lapsed Liberal supporters who returned home that really pulled the rug from under Mulcair. Trudeau almost tripled the party's vote — mostly at the expense of New Democrats. Quebec's secularism debate has so far been a family discussion that has for the most part involved politicians who do not actually belong to a visible religious minority.

Singh's French would put to shame some of the former Conservative ministers who have spent the past year calling on their party to overlook their glaring deficiencies in the other official language.

No one should presume that an NDP leader who can otherwise connect in French with Quebecers would automatically lose the party's audience in the province on grounds of religious diversity.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer.

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LIFE
Your essential daily news

Smith comes to Netflix's defence

CANNES

Palme d'Or jury is split on the merits of online films

Peter Howell
life@metronews.ca

Jury president Pedro Almodovar (left) with fellow jury members Jessica Chastain and Will Smith at the 70th international Cannes Film Festival Tuesday. AP PHOTO/ALASTAIR GRANT

The war of big vs. small movie screens at the Cannes Film Festival heated up Wednesday as Palme d'Or jury president Pedro Almodovar declared that prizes shouldn't be given to online-only films.

"I personally would not conceive not only the Palme d'Or but any other prize being given to a film and then not being able to see this film on the large screen," the veteran Spanish filmmaker told an international press audience on the festival's opening day.

Calling it "the debate of this year," Almodovar was clearly referring to the two Netflix films among the 19 competing for the Palme: Bong Joon-ho's sci-fi fantasy Okja, starring Tilda Swinton and Jake Gyllenhaal; and Noah Baumbach's The Meyerowitz Stories, a dysfunctional-family drama starring Dustin Hoffman, Emma Thompson, Adam Sandler and Ben Stiller.

Online giant Netflix has caused a furor in Cannes for refusing to commit to a traditional theatrical release in France of the two films prior to online distribution. Cannes has fought back by saying Netflix, which is in the Palme competition for the first time this year, won't be allowed into the 2018 festival unless it changes its policy.

Almodovar obviously sides with the festival, but his statement, read out in Spanish, English and French, was highly unusual given his leading role on the nine-member jury. The other jurors are Hollywood actors Will Smith and Jessica Chastain, German writer/director Maren Ade (Toni Erdmann); Chinese actress Fan Bingbing (X-Men: Days of Future Past); French actress/singer/filmmaker Agnès Jaoui (The Taste of Others); South Korean writer/director Park Chan-wook (Oldboy); Italian writer/director Paolo Sorrentino (The Great Beauty); and French-Lebanese composer Gabriel Yared (Xavier Dolan's It's Only the End of the World).

Normally, the jurors and their president go out of their way at the start of Cannes to declare their impartiality regarding the films they will be viewing and judging over the 12-day festival.

Almodovar obviously thinks the battle to preserve big-screen dominance is too important to ignore, even if it effectively suggest that Okja and The Meyerowitz Stories now have little chance of winning the Palme at festival's end on May 28, no matter how much the jury may like them.

He said he's willing to "acknowledge (and) celebrate the new technologies and the possibilities that they offer to us," but he'll stop short of giving them prizes if they result in films destined only to appear on TV and computer screens.

"I do acknowledge them, but (as long) as I'm alive, I'll be fighting for one thing that I'm afraid the new generation is not aware of: the capacity of hypnosis of the large screen for the viewer."

Almodovar's attack on Netflix caused some discomfort for actor Smith, sitting near him. His new film Bright, a fantasy cop thriller co-starring Noomi Rapace, is scheduled for a Netflix-only release in December.

Smith rose to the defence of Netflix, saying he uses the service at home and his family also enjoy regular visits to movie theatres.

"I have a 16-year-old and an 18-year-old and a 24-year-old at home. They go to the movies twice a week, and they watch Netflix. There's very little cross between going to the cinema and watching what they watch on Netflix."

Netflix allows Smith's children to "watch films they otherwise wouldn't have seen. It has broadened my children's global cinematic comprehension."

Smith was an unusual pick for the Cannes jury, given his career as one of the world's biggest stars, which normally lands him in blockbusters like Men in Black, Bad Boys and Suicide Squad rather than artier fare.

He joked about how he's excited about being on the Cannes jury, and he intends to watch closely and learn from the experience.

Smith admitted, though, to being shocked when his agent told him he'd have to watch three films per day for the better part of two weeks, with screenings beginning as early as 8:30 a.m. each day.

"I was probably 14 years old the last time I watched three movies in a day," he said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

> **(My kids) go to the movies twice a week, and they watch Netflix. There's very little cross between going to the cinema and watching what they watch on Netflix.** Will Smith

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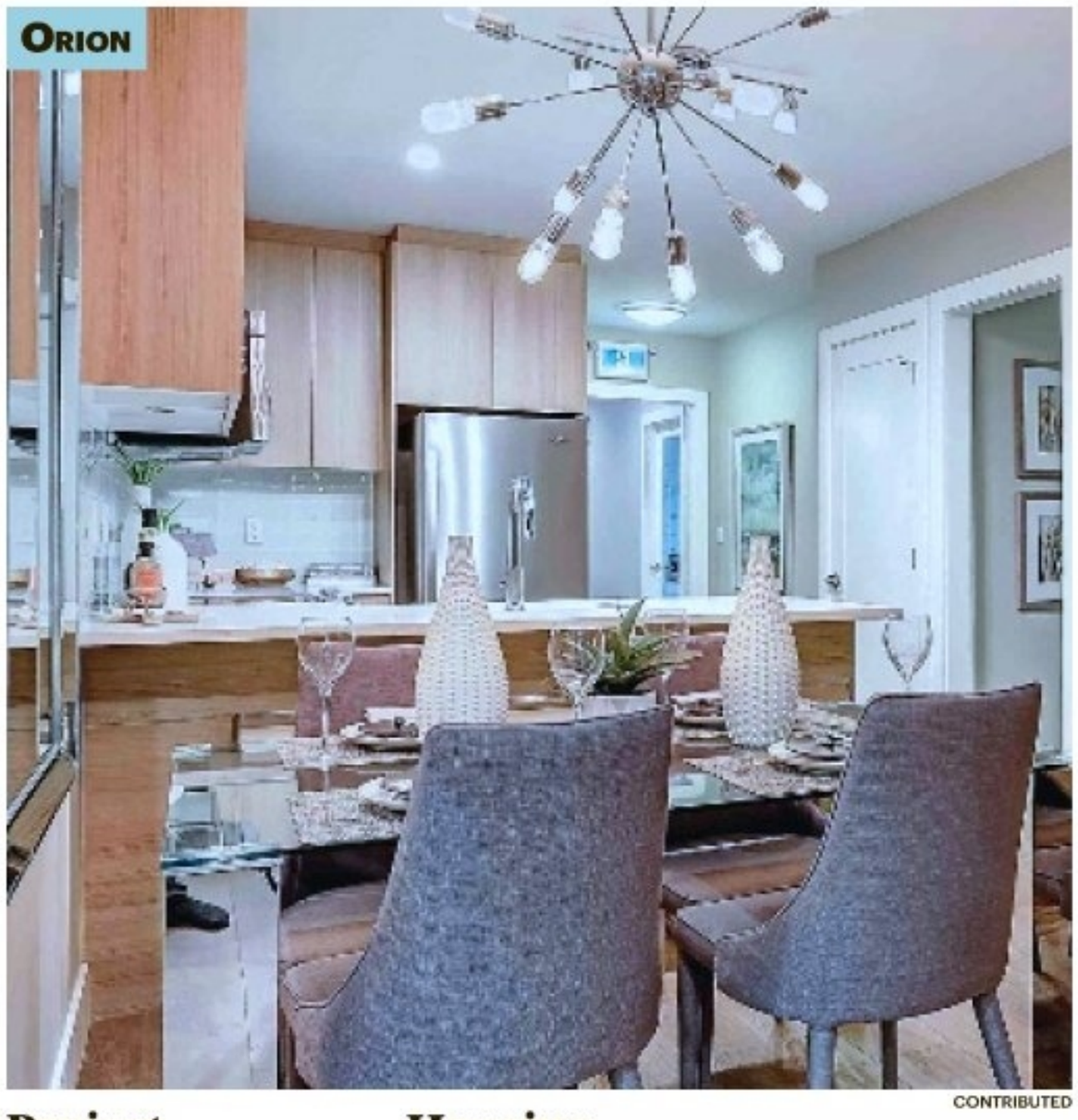

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Project overview

Orion is a collection of 82 condominiums in a four-storey building in the city of Pitt Meadows. Units vary in sizes, from 609 to 1,158 square feet, starting at $299,900. Residents will have the opportunity to be in both a city environment and have quick and easy access to a more rural lifestyle.

Housing amenities

Orion's four-storey community-oriented design is perfect for young families looking to make a start in an affordable and beautiful neighbourhood. Each unit features an open-air design, but some of the best amenities are outside as Orion is nestled between the Fraser River and Golden Ears mountains.

Location and transit

The West Coast Express train is just a few minutes away by foot. Bus stops are within two blocks, leading all around the city. Those with automobiles have quick access to Lougheed Highway and Harris Road, keeping residents connected throughout Metro Vancouver no matter the form of transportation.

In the neighbourhood

The building is at 19106 McMyn Rd. which is set right behind a shopping plaza featuring restaurants and grocery stores, and within walking distance of MacLean Park. It's also nearby the Langley Farm Market, making a weekend trip for farm-fresh groceries a breeze.

DETAILS

What: Orion
Builder/developer: Bellmont Group
Location: 19106 McMyn Rd.
Building: Four storey low-rise condos
Models: One, two and three bedrooms
Sizes: From 609 square feet
Pricing: Please contact sales centre
Status: Presales
Occupancy: Arriving 2019
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HOME RENOVATIONS

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Give your home a boost

If you're looking for the best windows and doors for your next home renovation, make sure you consider your options before you invest.

EuroLine, a Delta-based window and door manufacturer, has been making high-end, European-engineered products for its clients for more than 24 years.

"There are two main reasons people call us to get new windows or doors," says Nolan Myles, renovation sales consultant at EuroLine. "The first is that they love the home they live in and want to make an investment in it for the long-term, and maybe even more importantly, they want to improve the energy efficiency of the house."

Many older homes have cold, drafty aluminum windows, he explains. Although every home is different, you'll see significant energy savings with EuroLine windows.

They use technologies and materials that increase energy efficiency. EuroLine windows are reinforced with galvanized steel and are built with thick, strong uPVC profiles that won't yellow or become brittle over time.

The family-run business sources multi-point locking hardware for the tilt & turn system from Europe, and isn't interested in cutting corners, says Myles.

"If people are looking for a better-quality vinyl window, they'll come to EuroLine," he says.

The company's windows are made by 85 employees at EuroLine's factory in Delta. "We have complete control over the quality of the product," says Myles.

When it comes to energy efficiency, you'll get the best results by replacing all the windows in your home, since "the way cold air works is that you could install all new windows on the front, but then all your warm air will be drawn to the back of the house and go out the old windows," Myles explains. Many households keep their renovation within budget by replacing windows over time in two or more phases. It's an investment that will reduce your energy costs over the long-term and make the house more comfortable to live in.

"People will notice their house is warmer in the winter, cooler in the summer and quieter. The windows don't sweat, and it gives a whole new look to their home," says Myles.

EuroLine specializes in high-quality tilt & turn windows, as well as basement egress windows, bay windows and round or unusually-shaped windows.

"Again and again we've had our customers come back and tell us that they love their EuroLine doors and windows," says Myles.

Cutting-edge window technology

Passive House technology is the next frontier in green homebuilding, and local window and doors specialist EuroLine is at the forefront of the movement.

The energy-efficient Passive House building technique originated in Germany and is now spreading around the world. It's usually a relatively small home built with extremely thick and insulating walls, roofs, windows and doors.

It needs only minimal heating, and saves an incredible amount of energy, not to mention money on heating bills. The style is catching on with some Vancouverites, particularly those who are building laneway homes on their properties, says Nolan Myles of EuroLine, which offers a line of Passive House windows.

"It's a new wave of window technology, and we're right on the crest of it," he says.

While Passive House windows aren't necessarily recommended for renovations to older homes, EuroLine can help those who are renovating their homes find energy-efficient alternatives.

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Endless style options

EuroLine windows and doors aren't just incredibly functional and energy efficient – they also come in a stunning array of looks, so you can customize them to suit your home and décor.

All EuroLine windows and doors are custom-made for clients. Once you visit the EuroLine showroom you'll see just how many options you have.

Choose from many different durable, high-quality foil finishes, including EuroWood, a product that will give you the look and feel of wood without the maintenance. It's available in a wide range of colours including oak, fir and teak, so you can choose a look that matches the existing wood in your home.

All EuroLine products are colour-fast, so they'll stand the test of time and resist deterioration from atmospheric chemicals and pollution.

Other custom colours and finishes are available too, and you can have different colours applied to each side of the window, or mix-and-match a colour with a EuroWood finish.

Glass finishes are another set of options. The EuroLine window systems come standard with double-pane units, LowE glass, and argon gas, but you'll also have other options, including triple-pane, obscure, laminated security and tempered safety glass.

To cut down noise from the outside, consider choosing laminated glass – it makes a dramatic difference.

"Our team will help you customize your renovated windows and doors to be exactly the way you want them," says Nolan Myles of EuroLine.

Compare your options in person at the EuroLine showroom at 7620 MacDonald Rd., Delta, open Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., open on Saturday by appointment, and closed Sunday and holidays.

Whether you are renovating your current home or building your dream house, EuroLine windows and doors are custom-made to your specifications in our manufacturing facility in Delta, BC — and our vast array of products combined with a wide range of colours, finishes, glass types and other accessories ensure a solution that fits your taste and lifestyle.

EuroLine Windows® door and window systems are designed to meet or exceed the latest performance testing standards for building codes in Vancouver and throughout BC, and provide unsurpassed thermal comfort and significant energy savings. EuroLine products are recognized by builders, architects and homeowners for incomparable beauty and superior quality.

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Even a small upgrade can make a big impact

When a fixer upper on a tiny lot sells for more than a million dollars, it's easy to dismiss the idea that you need to spend money to make money on your home. But investments, big or small, can produce big returns, even when it's already a seller's market.

"We had clients purchase a 'fixer upper' in November for $675,000," says Lindsay Strom, a leading Royal LePage realtor based in the Aurora and Newmarket area. "They freshly painted the entire house, put down new flooring, updated the bathrooms with flooring and new vanities, and added new stainless steel appliances. They sold it in January for $850,000 ... A house that shows beautifully and is nicely updated always demands top dollar, and even gets more than it deserves."

JENNIFER HAYMAN

But even small upgrades can have an impact. Ella Zetser is the founder of The Last Detail, a Toronto-area home staging company. She says something as simple as swapping out outdated light fixtures can be effective. "You can go to Costco and buy a $42 light and that's a big upgrade," Zetser says.

Not sure where to spend and where to save your money when it comes to upgrades that will get you the biggest return on your investment? Strom and Zetser have some advice.

If you can only do one thing: Paint. That could mean simply freshening up marked or yellowed walls, or giving rooms a makeover with a new colour entirely. "Painting can give a 200 per cent return on investment," Strom says. "If someone has a pink or green or other dated colour in their rooms, a fresh coat of light grey or beige paint goes a long way." If you're not sure what colour to go with, Zetser says grey is still "super hot" and has widespread appeal amongst prospective buyers. "You want to appeal to the masses. That's how you get top dollar."

Don't forget the hardware: It might not be the sexiest cosmetic upgrade, but Zetser says that changing up small features like cabinetry hardware is a smart move with a small price tag.

"Cabinets with round knobs have a more traditional motif to them," she says. "Just by taking the knob off and adding a slim, more oval-shaped pull, it changes the whole look of the kitchen."

What you can skip: While a beautifully finished basement offers additional living space, it might not be worth creating one from scratch before you list your home. Framing, drywall, insulation, flooring and paint can add up to thousands, and then there's the cost of furnishing the space. "Finishing basements are not worth doing," Strom says. "Typically what a homeowner spends and the return-on-investment realized is about the same."

Be mindful of what's hot and what's not: A fresh coat of paint is never a bad idea but any upgrade decisions, especially more expensive projects, should be informed by current design appetites. "Current trends include painted ceilings, pallet walls, free-standing tubs instead of corner tubs, and oversized showers," Strom says. "In kitchens, people are doing 'beverage niches', like dedicated coffee stations or wine bars."

As for what's out, Strom says glass tile backsplashes have seen their day and that white kitchens are waning in popularity. "People are starting to do more like funky things, like royal blue islands and grey cabinets."

Greenwalls bring nature indoors

Vancouverites love their green space. Many residents and businesses are now using various types of greenwalls to bring the beauty of forests indoors.

"People on the West Coast resonate with greenery," says Heather March, owner of Greenstems, a design company that specializes in innovative plant décor. "If you're in a condo or small space, a piece of preserved plant art or a living wall is a creative way to bring greenery into your indoor environment."

In 2009 March left a successful career in landscape design in Toronto, and now applies her design skills and creativity to creating indoor plant walls for her clients in Vancouver.

Each preserved plant art piece is unique, created with natural greenery including real ferns, moss and air plants, which have been preserved to last.

"People can bring these beautiful greens into their space without the ongoing maintenance," March explains.

A home's existing indoor plants are one factor March considers in her consultation process. "A preserved plant art piece can offer a beautiful complement to the living plants you already have," she says.

One of the many benefits of each custom-designed preserved plant wall is that it can evolve if a client would like to change it or have it redesigned entirely.

"Each piece is an original artwork that gives the space within the home a lush, three-dimensional feel," says March.

Take a look at Greenstems' current projects on Instagram @greenstems.

CONTRIBUTED

GREENSTEMS
By Heather March

YOUR TEAM OF GREEN EXPERTS

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A new beginning for newcomers

Financial program helps new Canadians build their future

For immigrants, foreign workers and international students new to Canada, one of the first priorities is getting on a firm financial footing.

Opening an account with a Canadian bank doesn't just address immediate needs — like building savings or establishing a credit rating — it also helps set long-term goals like buying a home or getting a business loan.

To help newcomers build a strong financial foundation in Canada, Scotiabank in 2008 launched its StartRight program. The goal of the program is "to help newcomers open the door to their new start in Canada," says Munsif Sheraly, Director of Multicultural Banking at Scotiabank. The program functions as a one-stop shop that helps newcomers with various aspects of their life in Canada. "From setting up your bank account and managing your money to investing for your future," says Sheraly, "Scotiabank offers the right solutions and advice."

"FROM SETTING UP YOUR BANK ACCOUNT AND MANAGING YOUR MONEY TO INVESTING FOR YOUR FUTURE, SCOTIABANK OFFERS THE RIGHT SOLUTIONS AND ADVICE."

– Munsif Sheraly

Because Scotiabank has partnerships with financial institutions around the world, StartRight lets new Canadians open an account even before they arrive in this country. Newcomers can open accounts online before arriving from 16 countries — including Chile, Columbia, India, the U.K. and more — and transfer money into that account so it's available when they arrive in Canada. Enrico, a StartRight participant, set up a Scotiabank account before he and his family left their native Philippines. "From there we could start building our credit rating," he says. "And when we got to Canada we had a credit card — absent a job, income or credit history — within a week's time."

While every immigrant success story is unique, there are a few common factors when it comes to feeling financially settled in a new country. Intangible benefits, such as being able to speak to an advisor in your own language, can go a long way toward making newcomers feel comfortable in their adopted home. And because the StartRight program has been actively working with immigrant, foreign worker and international student communities for almost a decade, its advisors have a lot of experience serving newcomers and their unique needs.

ISTOCK

Among the direct help StartRight offers: Newcomers who open an account through StartRight get $300 in banking benefits. The program also offers specialty products — such as the StartRight mortgage program and the StartRight auto finance program. And its advisors work with various settlement agencies and local community groups to further help newcomers settle in. The Scotiabank StartRight program is available at any Scotiabank branch in Canada or by visiting scotiabank.com/newtocanada.

However you say "home," we speak your language.

With the *Scotiabank StartRight*® Program[1], newcomers can get over $300[2] in banking benefits.

As a newcomer to Canada, you have questions. A Scotiabank advisor is ready to answer them all, and provide the advice you need to get established and build confidence. Let's talk about your own unique goals.

Learn more at scotiabank.com/newtocanada

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®Registered Trademarks of The Bank of Nova Scotia. [1] The Scotiabank StartRight Program is created for Landed Immigrants from 0-3 years in Canada, International Students and Foreign Workers. [2] Earn **$100** when you open a Scotia® Moneyback™ Account, Scotia One™ Account or Basic Banking Plan which will be deposited into that account within 120 days of the account opening. Visit www.scotiabank.com or in branch for more details about the features and fees of these accounts, including minimum daily balances, and the offer. Have your monthly fees waived on a Scotia One™ Account when you maintain a minimum daily balance. A value of up to **$165** per year. Secure your valuables with a free small safety deposit box for a year. A value of **$55**. Subject to availability and signing the Safety Deposit Box lease.

metro SPORTS
Your essential daily news

No clean break

MLS

Shea finding form after eventful start with Whitecaps

Brek Shea sits down on a bench before peeling off his cleats after a spirited practice. The Vancouver Whitecaps midfielder answers a couple of questions when the conversation turns to the circumstances that brought him to the West Coast.

In short, he never expected to be here.

"(The trade) was a huge shock to me," said Shea. "I wasn't very happy at first, to be honest. But now I really enjoy my team and the staff and the environment."

Acquired from Orlando City SC just before the start of the season, the tattooed 27-year-old Texan has already had a number of highs and lows in Vancouver.

Shea was red carded and suspended for swearing at the referee in his first MLS start before suffering a knee injury in early April moments after scoring in the CONCACAF Champions League semifinal.

The Whitecaps thought he might miss three months, but Shea was back at training a few weeks later and has bagged goals the last two games as a substitute.

Needless to say, Shea's first 80-odd days in Vancouver have been eventful.

"I came in, one game got a red card, then missed one and then got injured," he said. "I'm starting to feel more healthy now so hopefully I can be a more consistent contributor."

While Shea — the owner of 24 goals and 20 assists in 148 MLS appearances — is rounding into form on the pitch, there's also no denying the ability he possesses off it. His website Left Foot Studio sells his vibrant paintings and artwork to raise money for charity.

"It's just a hobby of mine," said Shea, whose wife and daughter have joined him in Vancouver. "I always enjoyed art when I was young. My mom was very artistic. It's just something I really enjoy to do off the field."

In the wake of the Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando last June that left 50 dead, including the gunman, Shea created pieces to help survivors, including rainbow-painted cleats.

"That was a huge tragedy," he said. "I just wanted to contribute as best I could. That was one way I could contribute."

Back on the field, Shea has come as advertised when healthy. He scored the game's only goal off the bench two weeks ago against the Colorado Rapids before getting one back in last Friday's 2-1 loss to the Houston Dynamo.

The Whitecaps (4-5-1), who host Kansas City (5-2-4) on Saturday following a four-game road strip, hope that continues.

"He's got two goals in a row," said Whitecaps midfielder Andrew Jacobson. "I've been on the field with him before.

"When he catches fire he can be one of the best in the league."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Brek Shea
THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **He was a nightmare.**
> Whitecaps manager Carl Robinson recalls tangling with the six-foot-three, 195-pound Brek Shea — a finalist for MLS MVP in 2011 — at the tail end of his playing career.

IN BRIEF

Cavs cruise past Celtics
LeBron James had 38 points, nine rebounds and seven assists and the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the Boston Celtics 117-104 on Wednesday night in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference finals.

Kevin Love added a playoff career-high 32 points and had 12 rebounds to help the Cavaliers improve to 9-0 in the first three rounds of the playoffs. They opened 10-0 last season en route to their first title. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL PLAYOFFS

Senators' offence ascends at home

The Ottawa Senators needed less than 13 minutes to put away Game 3 of the Eastern Conference final.

Ottawa got four goals past Marc-Andre Fleury in the first 12 minutes and 52 seconds — including the fastest three goals in team playoff history — and went on to top the Pittsburgh Penguins 5-1 Wednesday night at Canadian Tire Centre and take a 2-1 series lead.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

GAME 3 In Ottawa

BOOST FAT BURNING

THE POWERFUL SLIMMING EFFECT OF HEAT

Are you looking for a smart way to burn body fat on a daily basis? Scientists have found that a natural food substance in chili has powerful effects on body fat levels. The key is in heat production.

Our body has two types of fat tissue; White and Brown. White fat is passive and just stores fat on your body. But brown adipose fat tissue (BAT) regulates the burning of calories for heat. Brown fat was thought to only be active in infants, to stay warm, but studies are showing that BAT can still be active in adults and the more active it is, the thinner they are!*

HOW DO WE ACTIVATE BROWN FAT?

Freezing your body is one way (cold showers, exposure to ice etc.), but luckily, this is not the only way. BAT is also activated by a natural ingredient called capsaicin – the chili compound that makes hot peppers hot. Add chili to a meal and you increase fat burning up to 150%.*

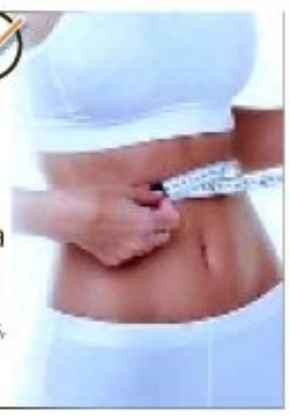
ADDING EGCG FROM GREEN TEA TO MAKE A "SUPER FAT BURNER"

The problem though, is that for best results, you need to add chili to most meals.* Since this is not practical, New Nordic has designed a tablet called Chili Burn™, containing the ideal amounts of chili pepper for fat burning. But to increase the power of the tablet, we added green tea and chromium, which have long been used and proven to promote slimming, especially around the belly.* Take one tablet with your morning and mid day meal, and you are on your way to a leaner you.

DID YOU KNOW?
Chili has been blamed for hurting the stomach lining and creating a burning sensation, but research shows the opposite. Hot chili peppers actually protect the stomach lining and may prevent gastric upsets.*

TEST YOURSELF
- ○ I want to lose at least 5 kilos
- ○ I store fat on my belly
- ○ I don't eat many spices
- ○ I don't drink a lot of green tea
- ○ I don't exercise twice a week

If you answered "yes" to most of these questions, then Chili Burn is a great tool for you to lose weight safely and surely.



Chili Burn™ is made in Sweden and has been a best-selling natural supplement in Europe for over a decade. While Chili Burn™ won't work overnight, it will surely, safely and gradually help you burn more body fat and in time help you reach your slimming goals.

Chili Burn™ is available in Canada at major pharmacies and health food stores. For more information or to buy directly from the manufacturer, call 1-877-696-6734 or visit our website. * For all references, please visit our website

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MAKE IT TONIGHT

Hearty Panzanella Salad

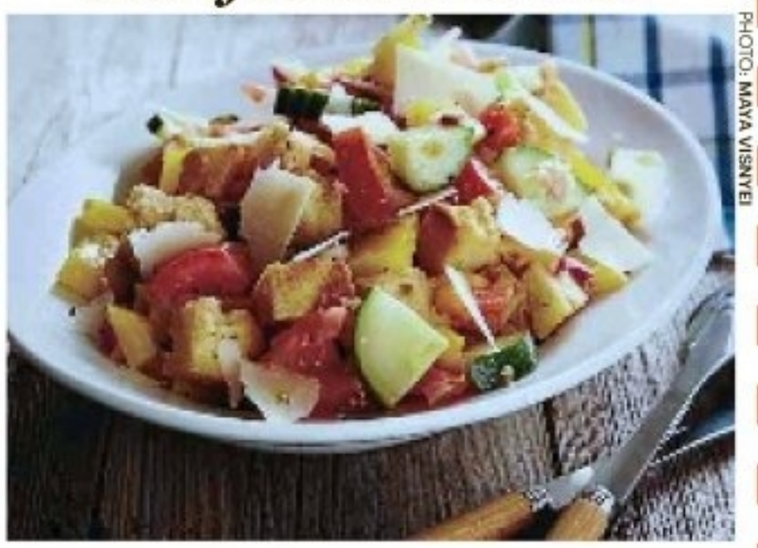


PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

This hearty salad is delicious on its own, but feel free to make it into a more complete meal by topping it with chopped rotisserie chicken.

Ready in 15 minutes
Prep Time: 10 minutes
Cooking time: 5 minutes

Ingredients
- 4 cups of slightly stale crusty bread, like baguette
- 4 tomatoes roughly chopped
- 1 cucumber peeled and roughly chopped
- 1 yellow pepper
- 1/2 red onion finely sliced or chopped
- 1/2 cup pitted black olives
- 1/2 cup or so of shaved parmesan
- 1 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 1/2 red wine vinegar
- 1/2 Tbsp dijon mustard
- salt and pepper to taste

Directions

1. Toss the first seven ingredients in your salad bowl first so that everything is evenly distributed.

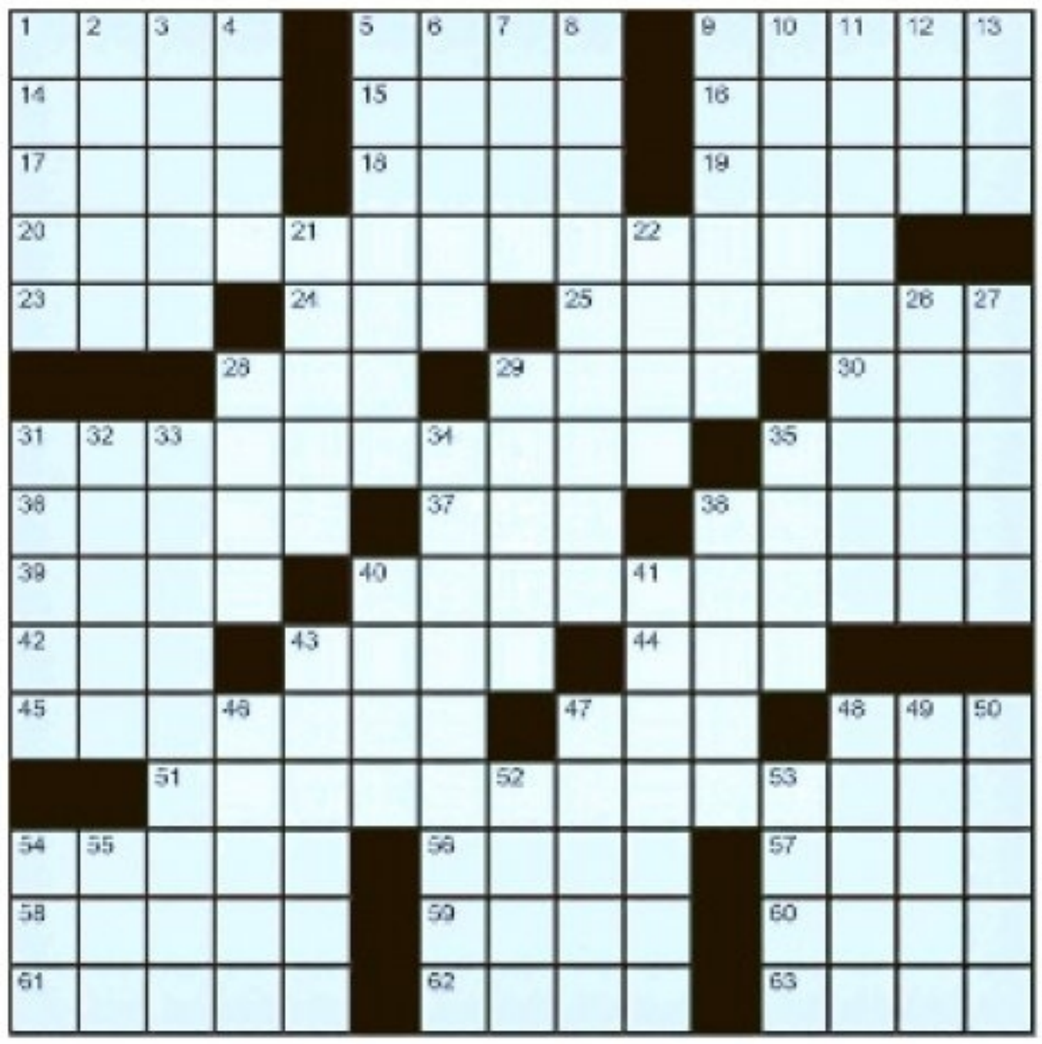
2. Whisk together the last four ingredients in a small bowl until they are well combine.

3. There will be more dressing than you need, but you'll need more than you'd use for a regular salad as the bread will drink it up. Keep adding the dressing and tossing and tasting. You want to the bread to be moist and soften but not drowned by the dressing.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Bird's crop
5. Shania Twain trophy, e.g.
9. Leg bone
14. Toy building block
15. Repenter
16. Stop!, in sailing
17. Finito
18. Env. info
19. Ceremonies
20. Ontario: __ Corners (Uniquely-named hamlet in Wilmot Township which is in the Regional Municipality of Waterloo)
23. Arrange
24. The Honourable Dr. Vivienne __, retired Canadian Senator
25. Garden chore
28. Mr. Wheaton
29. Love letter's envelope letters
30. "Golly."
31. Container for Canadian dairy brand
Sealtest: 2 wds.
35. ___ upswing
36. Mr. Sharif's
37. War on Poverty agcy.
38. Shipping container
39. "It's my turn.": 2 wds.
40. Where to find deals on pre-owned vehicles: 2 wds.
42. Cleaning cloth
43. Baking meas.
44. Bean and Cool J
45. One sticking to the rules
47. Movies composer Francis
48. Air travel overseer [acronym]
51. They cascade across the way in New York from Canada at Niagara: 2 wds.
54. "Like a Rolling Stone" ___ Dylan
56. Phyllis Diller's husband's name from her stand-up act
57. See
58. Actor Nick
59. Lake, in Italy
60. Horse part
61. Once ___ (Every seven days)
62. Vigour [abbr.]
63. Goulash

DOWN
1. Horseshoes-on-cobblestones noises
2. Variety show
3. Insurance __
4. Employment
5. Crayons creator
6. Jim of Blue Rodeo
7. Beatles' "Love ___"
8. Vulcan County village in Alberta that's southeast of Calgary
9. Herb __ (TV character who wore loud suits)
10. Foliaged, as stone walls
11. Gotham City Police Department searchlight to summon The Dark Knight
12. 'Expert' suffix
13. Cadillac ___ Sedan
21. Sagas
22. Mr. Cain
26. "Swell!"
27. Jean __ (The Balcony dramatist)
28. Cincinnati radio station for #9-Down
29. Heighty, as a hill
31. Ms. Shearer of "The Red Shoes" (1948)
32. Fuming one's statement: 2 wds.
33. Funny
34. Complained-about Canadian-manufactured infantry firearm of WWI: 2 wds.
35. Bruins legend Bobby's
38. San Diego's li'l state
40. Taxi alternative service
41. Loud noisiness, States-style
43. "Jeopardy!" host Alex
46. Theatrically overact
47. Actress, Jessica __
48. Parade route display
49. Solo
50. Awry
52. James of "Misery" (1990)
53. Donations
54. Passed in 1867, it made Canada [acronym]
55. "Ouch!"

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Be prepared to act on an unexpected opportunity in publishing, the media, medicine, the law or anything to do with training and higher education. You will have to act quickly.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You might see new and innovative ways to approach an inheritance or shared property. Be open. The rigid tree is the first to snap in a storm.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Difficulties in partnerships and close friendships suddenly might reveal a solution or a way to feel more free. Whatever presents itself will have a brief window of opportunity.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
New ideas that are imaginative and original might help you at work. Similarly, new ideas also might give you a boost to your health. Keep an open mind (but not so open that everything falls out).

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
A new approach to working with children might arise now. Whatever happens will be a welcome change.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You might see new ways to make improvements where you live. You might even decide to move to a new place. It's possible that family news will surprise you.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
A surprise opportunity to change jobs or residences might fall in your lap. If so, be ready to act quickly, because the window of opportunity is brief.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You might see improved and innovative ideas about how to earn money. You might improve your current job or get a better job — who knows?

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You are pumped with enthusiasm because you see a way to make a breakthrough in a new area that you are exploring. Something definitely will expand your world, and it's exciting!

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
After giving up so much for others, you are starting to see a light at the end of the tunnel. Something ahead looks promising!

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
New friends and contacts with groups and organizations might change your world. You will expand it in a way that makes you feel more in touch with how things are done.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Surprise opportunities that can help you in your career are now at hand. Don't hesitate to take them. (You might not get a second chance.)

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

			2		9			
		9				5		
2		1				7		8
3			8		6			1
5			4		7			9
7		6				2		3
		2				1		
			1		5			

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Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

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3	1	9	4	6	7	2	8	5
8	7	2	9	5	3	6	1	4
4	6	5	1	8	2	3	9	7
7	5	4	3	9	1	8	6	2
2	8	3	6	7	4	9	5	1
1	9	6	8	2	5	7	4	3
9	2	7	5	1	6	4	3	8
6	3	1	2	4	9	5	7	9
5	4	8	7	3	9	1	2	6

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